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ABSTRACT

The first edition of this book was based on research conducted from 1984 to 1986. Twenty-nine couples participated in the study and ten of these couples were involved in a follow-up study conducted in 1987. Between 1990 and 1993 research was conducted on 93 stepfamilies, each with an adolescent stepchild, from across Australia. The final two chapters are based on this research. The aim of the book is to present a positive approach to stepfamilies. The difficulties of living in a stepfamily are outlined and suggestions are provided on how families may tackle these problems. The chapters include: (1) "Understanding Stepfamilies"; (2) "The Couple"; (3) "Relationships with the Children"; (4) "Children and Stepfamilies"; (5) "Ghosts from the Past"; (6) "Developing a Positive Stepfamily"; (7) "The Role of a Stepparent"; and (8) "Understanding Adolescent Stepchildren." (BF)

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